

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A sample ~~Sample~~ support (3,10) designed to support a sample (13) which is to be detected and/or analysed by a photothermal detection method using an irradiation pump beam (21-a) irradiating the sample (13) and a detection and/or analysis probe beam (22), ~~characterized in that it~~ wherein said sample support comprises a substrate (11) supporting a stack of thin dielectric layers forming a Bragg mirror (12) on which the sample (13) will be supported, the stack of thin dielectric layers being used to reflect the pump beam (21a) that reaches it.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): A sample ~~Sample~~ support (3,10) according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the Bragg mirror (12) includes thin dielectric layers with a high refraction index, formed from a material ~~chosen~~ selected from among the group composed consisting of TiO₂, HfO₂, SiO₃N₄, Ta₂O₅, Al₂O₃ and In₂O₃.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): A sample ~~Sample~~ support (3,10) according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the Bragg mirror (12) includes thin dielectric layers with a low refraction index, formed from a material ~~chosen~~ selected from among the group composed consisting of SiO₂, MgF₂ and LiF.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): A sample ~~Sample~~ support (3,10) according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the upper layer forming the Bragg mirror (12) is biocompatible with the sample (13).

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): A sample ~~Sample~~ support (3,10) according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the upper layer forming the Bragg mirror (12) is a layer with a low refraction index.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): A device Device for detection and/or analysis of a sample (13) by a photothermal method, the said device comprising a sample support (3,10) according to any one of claims claim 1 to 5, a means of lighting the sample supported by the said support and supplying, a pump beam (1,21a), a means of detection and/or measurement of the absorption or reflection of the pump beam by the sample when it is illuminated by the said illumination means.

Claim 7 (Original): A device Device according to claim 6 ~~the previous claim~~, characterized in that it also comprises a further comprising means of positioning the said detection and/or measurement means.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): A device Device according to claim 6, characterized in that wherein the means of illuminating the sample and providing the pump beam (1,21a) is a laser source.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): A device Device according to claim 6, characterized in that wherein the means of detection and/or measurement of absorption or reflection of the pump beam by the sample comprises a light source supplying a probe beam (2,22) and means of detecting the deviation of the probe beam.

Claim 10 (Currently Amended): A device Device according to claim 9 the previous claim, characterized in that wherein the means of detecting the deviation of the probe beam (2,22) comprise a multi-element photodiode or a simple photodiode.

Claim 11 (Currently Amended): A device according to claim 6, wherein Device according to any one of claims 6 to 10, characterized in that the wavelength of the pump beam(1,21a) is chosen so that the sample (13) is absorbent at this wavelength.

Claim 12 (Currently Amended): A device according to claim 6, wherein Device according to any one of claims 6 to 10, characterized in that the wavelength of the pump

beam(1, 21a) is chosen so that markers provided on the sample (13) absorb light at this wavelength.

Claim 13 (Currently Amended): Use of the device according to claim 6 any one of claims 6 to 12 for a test, a diagnosis or detection of oligonucleotide hybridisation, in a liquid medium or in air, on a solid support for "screening" purposes or for the detection of hybridisation on biochips.